

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An electronic identification tag comprising:
 2 a means for permanently storing data in an unalterable
 3 fashion, said data being known as unalterable data;
 4 a means for permanently storing data in an alterable fashion,
 5 said data being known as alterable data;
 6 a means for communicating said unalterable data and said
 7 alterable data to an electronic identification reader.

- 1 2. The identification tag of claim 1 wherein said
 2 alterability is subject to permanent disablement.

- 1 3. The identification tag of claim 1 further comprising:
 2 a means for altering said alterable data.

- 1 4. The identification tag of claim 3 further comprising:
 2 a means for receiving data to be substituted for said
 3 alterable data by said altering means.

- 1 ~~5.~~ The identification tag of claim ~~4~~² wherein said
 2 unalterable storage means is a laser programmable read-only memory
 3 (laser PROM).

- 1 ~~6.~~ The identification tag of claim ~~4~~² wherein said alterable
 2 storage means is an electrically-erasable programmable read-only
 3 memory (EEPROM).

- 1 7. The identification tag of claim 1 further comprising:
 2 a means for temporarily storing data, said data being known

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3 as temporary data, said communicating means being capable of
 4 communicating said temporary data as well as said unalterable and
 5 alterable data to an electronic identification reader.

1 ~~6.~~ The identification tag of claim ~~5~~ wherein said temporary
 2 storage means is a first-in/first-out (FIFO) memory.

1 ~~7.~~ The identification tag of claim ~~5~~ wherein said temporary
 2 storage means is a random access memory (RAM).

1 10. An apparatus for altering data in the memory of an
 2 electronic identification tag independent of the reader comprising:
 3 a means for receiving data from a user to be communicated to
 4 said tag;
 5 a means for communicating said data to said tag.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said communicating
 2 means comprises:
 3 a means for generating a reversing magnetic field;
 4 a means for modulating said reversing magnetic field in
 5 accordance with said user-supplied data.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said magnetic field
 2 generating means comprises a coil, a first capacitor connected to
 3 one end of said coil, and a second capacitor connected to the other
 4 end of said coil, said coil and capacitors having an alternating
 5 voltage impressed across the series combination, the frequency of
 6 said alternating voltage being the resonant frequency of said
 7 series combination.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising an

2 electronic identification tag having a memory wherein the data
3 stored in said memory is alterable.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the electronic
2 identification tag comprises:

3 a means for altering ~~said~~ alterable data.

4 a means for receiving data to be substituted for said
5 alterable data by said altering means.

1 ~~15.~~ A method of storing and altering data in an electronic
2 identification tag comprising the steps:

3 P₁ receiving data to be permanently stored in memory in an
4 unalterable fashion, said data being known as unalterable data;

5 P₁ storing said unalterable data in an unalterable memory;

6 L receiving data to be stored in memory in an alterable fashion,
7 said data being known as alterable data, said alterable data being
8 permanently stored until purposely altered;

9 P₁ storing said alterable data in an alterable memory.

1 ~~16.~~ The method of claim ~~15~~ wherein said step of receiving
2 data is comprised of the steps:

3 P₁ receiving data from a user to be communicated to said tag;

4 L transmitting said data to said tag.

1 ~~17.~~ The method of claim ~~15~~ further comprising the steps:

2 P₁ receiving data to be temporarily stored in memory, said data
3 being known as temporary data; and

4 P₁ storing said temporary data in temporary memory.

1 ~~18.~~ The method of claim ~~17~~ further comprising the step:

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2 P₁ communicating said unalterable data, said alterable data, and
 3 said temporary data to an electronic identification reader.

1 ~~12.~~
~~13.~~ An electronic identification system comprising a reader
 2 and at least one tag, said tag comprising:

3 P₁ a means for permanently storing data in an unalterable
 4 fashion, said data being known as unalterable data;

5 P₁ a means for permanently storing data in an alterable fashion,
 6 said data being known as alterable data;

7 P₁ a means for altering said alterable data;

8 L a means for receiving data to be substituted for said
 9 alterable data by said altering means;

10 P₁ a means for communicating said unalterable data and said
 11 alterable data to an electronic identification reader;

12 P₁ said reader comprising:

13 L a means for receiving data from a user to be substituted for
 14 said alterable data stored in said alterable storage means in said
 15 tag;

16 P₁ a means for communicating said received data from the user to
 17 said tag.

END